

ON *VITREA SCHARFFI*, n.sp.

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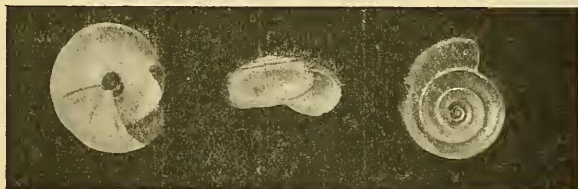
Read 10th January, 1908.

LAST year Mr. A. W. Stelfox kindly sent me a large series of *Vitreas*, which he had collected in the south-west of Ireland. Besides a number of *V. hibernica*, Kennard, there were a few examples which he had noted as being unknown to him. After a careful comparison I failed to identify them with any recorded British species, and attention was called to them in the report on the Cork Conference of the Irish Field Clubs.<sup>1</sup> In those genera such as *Vitrea*, *Vitrina*, and *Succinea*, where the shell is in a more or less degenerate condition, it is, I think, advisable that new species should be founded if possible on anatomical evidence, and for this reason I refrained from adding another species to the British list, preferring to wait till an opportunity occurred of examining the animal. It was therefore a matter of congratulation when Mr. R. A. Phillips forwarded me several living specimens of this form which he had collected at Kiltrush, co. Clare.

These examples were at once sent to the Rev. E. W. Bowell, and after a careful examination of their anatomy he concurred in pronouncing them as distinct from any known British form. I therefore propose to dedicate it to Dr. R. F. Scharff, who has done so much to promote the study of Natural Science in Ireland.

*VITREA SCHARFFI*, n.sp.

Shell convex above and beneath, very glossy, light fulvous horn-colour above, opaque white beneath, with irregular curved striae parallel with the mouth. Whorls  $5\frac{1}{2}$ , body-whorl about half the size of the shell; suture shallow; umbilicus narrow and deep. Alt. 6, diam. 12 mm.



The type from Cloughjordan, co. Tipperary, N. Ireland, is in my own collection. An account of the anatomy of this form will be given by the Rev. E. W. Bowell. It is of course possible that it may be identical with one of the numerous species of *Vitrea* which have been described

<sup>1</sup> Irish Naturalist, vol. xvi (1907), pp. 278 and 288.

from France and Spain, but I have been unable to identify it. It has been suggested that it is *V. subglabra*, Bourg., but judging from the original description and figure this is a synonym for *V. lucida*, Drap., an opinion which has already been expressed by Mr. J. W. Taylor.<sup>1</sup> Up to the present I have noted this species from Grange, Lancaster, and Seathwaite, Broughton-in-Furness, Lancashire; near Stromness, Orkney, Scotland; and in Ireland from Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, and Nenagh, co. Tipperary, N.; Kilrush, co. Clare; Morru, co. Down; Bantry, co. Cork; Birr, Kings Co.; near Ross, co. Galway, W.; Loughrea, co. Galway, E.; Salthill, co. Galway, W.; Knocknarea Glen, co. Sligo; Ballinspittal, co. Cork, W.; Youghal, co. Cork, E.; Carrigrohane, co. Cork, Mid; Donegal Priory Lough Gill, co. Sligo; and Youghal, co. Waterford.

There is but little difficulty in distinguishing *V. Scharffi*, for its colour is very striking and quite sufficient to separate it from either *V. lucida*, *V. cellaria*, or *V. hibernica*. Compared with *V. cellaria* it is larger, more robust, and with a much smaller umbilicus, whilst it may readily be distinguished from *V. lucida* by the last whorl being not so expanded, and from *V. hibernica* by the smaller umbilicus and its far more polished surface.

It is interesting to note the various names which have been applied to this species. The Grange examples have always been known as *cellaria*, whilst in all probability all the Irish records of *V. helvetica*, Blum., and *V. glabra*, Studer, really refer to this species.

In the *Irish Naturalist*, vol. iii (1894), pp. 45-6, it is stated that "specimens of a *Vitrea* [*Hyalinia*] found at Whitegate, co. Cork, and Bantry, were submitted to Dr. O. Boettger of Frankfort, and Dr. Westerlund, both of whom agree, as also does the original describer, in pronouncing it to be *V. helvetica*, Blum." I have seen some of the shells referred to, and they include both *V. hibernica* and *V. Scharffi*.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that many of the records of *Vitreas* are inaccurate and misleading. Until a few years ago a large *Vitrea* was always called *cellaria*, Müll., by English and American students, and there is no doubt that many of the records of *cellaria* refer to *V. lucida*, *V. hibernica*, or *V. Scharffi*. Judging from its known distribution, *V. Scharffi* is a Western species, and may possibly occur in Western Europe.

In conclusion, I must tender my best thanks to those gentlemen who have so kindly assisted me, and without whose help this paper could not have been written. Mr. A. W. Stelfox, Mr. R. Welch, Mr. R. B. Lucas, and Dr. R. F. Scharff forwarded series of Irish shells, Mr. R. A. Phillips sent a large number of living examples from Ireland, Mr. J. Davy Dean a number of shells from Lancashire, and Mr. J. Wilfrid Jackson a fine series from Grange, with a number of the animals preserved in spirit.

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<sup>1</sup> J. W. Taylor, Monograph of the L. & F.W. Moll. of the British Isles, part xiv, p. 19.